

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated March 9, 2006. Claims 1-36 are pending, with 1, 13 and 22 in independent form. Such independent claims have been amended to recite the outlining of recurring image elements, or portions thereof, and variable image elements, or portions thereof, in at least one memory area, the outlining forming intersection areas. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at least at page 10, lines 12-26, which is described with reference to FIGs. 3d and 3e. This portion of the specification describes that an imposed sheet 27 takes elements identified in four lists and partially renders them in memory. FIG. 3d identifies the list #1 objects 31 and the list #2 objects 32 and outlines their placement in memory. "A partial rendering as used herein refers to a rendering of essentially an outline of the elements and identifying where the overlaps with other objects exist. By the system knowing where the overlaps exist within the various elements, the intersections of the overlaps can be arranged within the memory bands 41, 42 with an associated TAG that identifies which element is to be inserted into the memory band at that intersection." Page 10, lines 14-19. In other words, by first outlining the elements, it can be determined where overlaps of elements exist, and which elements should be painted into each of the intersections identified by the outlined elements. An example of an intersection would be the area in which the portion of element 33 and the portion of element 32 shown in FIG. 3a intersect. By initially rendering outlines of elements and then filling in the intersection areas formed by the outlining, one need not paint an entire image layer-by-layer. (It is to be understood, of course, that the claims are not limited to the details of this embodiment, which is referred to for purposes of illustration only.)

The Office Action includes a rejection of Claims 1-27 and 30-36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,441,919 (Parker, et al.). Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Parker, et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,390 (Notredame, et al.). Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are patentable over the cited references, taken separately or in any proper combination, for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a method for one pass assembly in raster image processing of image elements using memory. The method includes forming a plurality of lists from image elements within a job file. The plurality of lists includes at least a first list for recurring image elements and at least a second list for variable image elements. The method also includes storing the recurring image elements of the first list in rasterized form, and storing the variable image elements of the second list in non-rasterized form. Additionally, the method includes identifying placement within at least one memory area of the recurring image elements and the variable image elements, wherein the identifying step includes outlining recurring image elements, or portions thereof, from the first list and variable image elements, or portions thereof, from the second list in the at least one memory area, the outlining forming intersection areas. The method further includes inserting into at least some of the intersection areas of the at least one memory area, stored recurring image elements, or portions thereof, from the first list; and raster image processing (RIPping) at least some of the intersection areas of the at least one memory area with stored variable image elements from the second list.

A notable feature of Claim 1 is that the identifying step includes outlining recurring image elements, or portions thereof, from the first list and variable image elements, or portions thereof, from the second list in the at least one memory area, the outlining forming intersection areas. In addition, Claim 1 requires inserting into at least some of the intersection areas stored recurring image elements, or portions thereof, from the first list. Further, Claim 1 requires raster image processing at least some of the intersection areas with stored variable image elements from the second list.

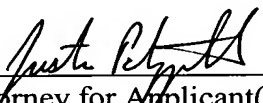
In contrast to Claim 4, the Parker, et al. patent is understood to paint all objects in a page layer-by-layer. See column 7, line 63 to column 8, line 23, and column 8, lines 37-38, lines 9-17, and lines 37-38. The Parker, et al. patent acknowledges that such an arrangement is inefficient, and attempts to mitigate this inefficiency by combining certain reusable objects that are adjacent to each other in the paint order (i.e., are in adjacent layers). See column 8, lines 32-53. Although combining certain reusable objects would mitigate having to paint every object of every layer, it is not as efficient as that described by the present invention and recited in Claim 1, where objects are first outlined and then

their intersection areas are filled. By outlining, in lieu of painting an image layer-by-layer, processing efficiency is increased because image areas need not be rendered multiple times. For at least this reason, independent Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the Parker, et al. patent. Further, nothing in the Notredame, et al. patent is believed to teach or suggest this feature, and consequently, Claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the Parker, et al. patent and the Notredame, et al. patent, taken separately or in any proper combination.

Independent Claims 13 and 22 include the same or similar features to that described above in connection with Claim 1, and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. The other claims in this application depend from one of the independent claims discussed above and also are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. However, since each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585)477-4656.